

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are pending in the present application, claim 3 having been cancelled without prejudice herein. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernstein (Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0026247) in view of Kikuchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,646). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernstein in view of Kikuchi and further in view of Freyman et al. (Patent Application No. US 2003/0083009). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernstein in view of Kikuchi and further in view of Eftechiou (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,747).

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claim 3 is allowable over the prior art of record. To advance prosecution, and without conceding the merits of the rejection, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the recitations of claim 3. Applicant respectfully submits that this overcomes the prior art rejections.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant, respectfully requests entry of the proposed amendment, since no new issues are raised, Applicant submits

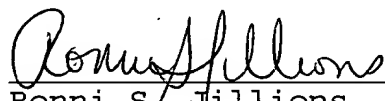
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that upon entry, the application will be in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.  
Attorneys for Applicant

By   
Ronni S. Jillions  
Registration No. 31,979

RSJ:tbs  
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197  
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528  
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